

quietly said:

report to you."

"Then God help us. Ben Johnson as

the leader, would have his say about

things. The captain, Haskell, myself

and others would not live an hour after

She stopped me with a gesture and

"I will assist you in any way I can.

None of the other people seems to be worried, but for the last two days I

have been almost convinced that there

was something wrong. I will watch the

two young wo aen and the doctor and

If you are posted as to the sailing of

a ship, you will understand that while

I was acting : \* captain the second mate

should have stood my watch. This I

did not permit, but stood watch and

watch with him. I had my interview

with Mary between 7 and 8 o'clock in

the evening. At 8 I went below and

turned in for four hours. When I came

on deck at midnight, I took Haskell

and the third mate and went below to

examine the cages. This was the first

midnight visit ever paid to the convicts

and produced great surprise. I had led

the way as quietly as possible, and

though all the convicts appeared to be

sound asleep when I looked into the

cages the positions of some of them were so unnatural that I suspected they

had thrown themselves down only a

moment before. The man York was the

guard on duty between cages Nos. 1 and 2, and though he had a face of

brass I did not fail to detect signs of

perturbation. I found the cages all

right, but was perfectly satisfied that a

minute before my descent York had

been holding conversation with some of

the convicts. Had it been in his power

to let them on deck I should not have

found them snoring away and mutter-

The midnight visit made no change

in our affairs, but gave me a thought

to be acted on next day. Among the crew was a may named Hawley. I had no fault to find with him as a sailor,

but I had sized him up as the most sim-

ple minded man of the lot. If I could

go at him right, I could learn from

him the subject of talk in the forecastle.

Before noon next day, the man being

in my watch and the off watch below,

I got him aft under pretense of examin-

ing the cabin stores in the lazarette. I

had placed a bottle of ram where he

could not fail to find it, and I gave him

time to sample the stuff before follow-

ing him through the trapdoor. It

pleased me to discover that he had

taken a liberal drink, and when the

stuff had been given time to loosen his

tongue I carelessly inquired;
"That man York is considered a very

smart man by all the crew, isn't he?"

"Nobody could be smarter, sir," he

promptly replied. "If I had a tenth of

his smartness, I wouldn't be where I am

"H has been in the goldfields of

"Al over 'em, sir, and has got some

thin I re a ton of the bloomin stuff

hidden way in a hill. He dasn't bring

it out or fear of robbers, but he can

lead the lot of us straight to the spot

and is willin to divide. Plenty more

where that ton came from. All you've

got to do is to scrape off the surface

dirt, and there's the nuggets. Do you

mind my axin you a question, Mr.

"I am no schollard, as you know. If

"Yes, a fairly rich man, and I wish

"Thankee, sir; thankee very much,

and I'm certainly goin to have it if

York knows what he's talkin about, and

we all think he do. Beggin your par-

don, sir, but isn't there lots and lots of

"And they are reg'lar paradises, with

nuthin fur a sailor to do but eat and

drink and smoke and make luv to the

wimin. Three months of that and then

She stopped me with a gesture.

for the goldfields. Ab, sir, but it was

great day for us when York came aboard of this ere bloomin booker."

The plot was out. The rum had be-fuddled the man's brains, and he had

told me all I wanted to know. To pre

vent him from going back to his ship-mates and being equally communica-

tive I gave him opportunity to secrete the bottle of rum on his person and then

sent hira on deck. Ten minutes later he

slipped into the fo'castle, as I reasoned

islands off the coast of Australia?"

"Yes, a great many islands."

"And not inhabited either?"

I had a lump of gold as heavy as I

could carry on my back, would I be a

now, beggin your humble pardon, sir,"

Austr. lia, I hear?"

Tompkins?"

rich man?'

"No. '

"Go ahead."

you had such a lump."

ing in their dreams.

he took command, and as for you and"-

By Captain RALPH DAVIS.

is - Chapter I.-Ben Johnson robi padley and is discovered in the act by maid, Mary Williams, his sweetheart. Dudley dies of fright. Johnson escapes, ving accused Mary of being his accomphaving accused Mary of Deinig his accomp-II—Balph Tompkins. mate of the Hin-aving come from a cruise, goes to Dudley sit his mother. On the way he meets sen in a boat, and in an altercation Tompson ma coat a with an oar. Johnson is stus Johnson with an oar. Johnson is ted for the murder of Lady Dudley and Tompkins of being accessory. III.son is held for the murder. Tompkins Mary Williams are released. Tompkins in love with Mary, who goes to Australia her parents. IV.—The Hindu takes cono Botany Bay. Tompkins, the Williams and Johnson, as a convict, are aboard. VL-Dector Haxton, in charge of the ets, is incompetent. Johnson refuses to and the officers suspect a mutiny is of. VII. The Hindu meets an Indiawho asks passage to the cape of Good for a man named Thomas, who is redand says that he was put aboard by erson's convict ship, the Albatross. e is evidence of a mutiny on the Hiudu, autineers, including Johnson, are flogged. and IX.—Matters seem to improve. The reaches the Cape and puts Thomas anda man of the name of York is ed. It is soon discovered that under 's leadership the convicts will mutiny ake the ship. X.-A supposed pestilence (CONTINUED.)

he result of the southerly gale was we were driven a long way to the hward of our course. When the gale ally broke and I got an observation verified it by dead reckoning, I nd that we were 350 miles off our curse. When this information was en to the captain, who was then only to sit up for half an hour at a time.

Well, Ralph, that is not much to plain of, as the bark came through right. The wind has come right at and two or three days will put us k on the right track."

During the storm there was nothing complain of in the conduct of sailors, ads or convicts. I was trusting Hasto keep his eyes open and give me news worth communicating, but he aght me none until the bark had headed down to the southeast. n be found opportunity at night to

'I can't make out that fellow York. ave watched him with increasing lance, but have failed to trip him though there are many things to ouse my suspicions. He has an influcrew little short of m Men who didn't like him at all his test friends now. I am the only of the guards he hasn't made ds with.

"Does he talk much?" I queried. 'Very little, as far as I have observed.

d yet I believe he does a great deal of Some of the men are talking about e goldfields and others of life on an and, and I believe the fellow is workg up to some climax. Did you know at he and Miss Foster have quite fallin love with each other during the st week?" "Is it possible?"

"And, queerly enough, Miss White d me to my face this morning that didn't believe Ben Johnson guilty the crime or deserving of the punishent. She seems to have a great admition for him, even if it is not someing stronger. I think we had best tep an eye on them as well as the peo-e forward, Mr. Tompkins."

thought so, too, and determined at Mary Williams should assist us. few hours later, when I found oppornity to speak to her, I told her of askell's observations and suspicions, d the replied:

"I think it at least very queer, Mr. ompkins. Up to the hour we left the ape both young women seemed to ake every effort to win my friendship. nce then they have almost avoided e, and I have been troubled for fear I nwittingly gave offense. So far as I now and can judge both are intelligint, respectable girls, and why they would pursue this singular course is ore than I can understand."

I further learned from her that Miss ester had been quite "thick" with Dr. axion and spent more or less time in e dispensary, and though Mary had opinion to offer it was plain to me at she was anxious and uneasy.

"Mr. Tompkins," she said as I was sout to turn away, "every precaution as been taken against revolt, and the iscipline so far as I can judge has been occased rather than abated, but of ourse it is possible that trouble may one. If the convicts were plotting reolt, how would they bring it about?"

"That is what worries me," I relied, "and why I received." lied, "and why I sought your assist-nce. While everything seems to be go-ing right there is no telling what influaces are at work. If we had the right at of a doctor aboard, and if I hadn't sipped that man York, I should feel a reat deal easier about things. Should here be a revolt it is hard to say just ow it will come. It may be at night, then most of us are asleep and totally then most of us are asleep and totally deal easier about things. Should pared, or it may come when one se gangs is on deck for exercise or

"And suppose the convicts overpower and crew and get pos

he would, and half an hour after, when I sent a man to rouse him out for a skulker, he was blind drunk and snoring like a pig. The chances were that he would remember nothing of the conversation he had with me when the effects of the liquor had worn off, and I was certain now of the influence ex-erted by York and what it was leading

CHAPTER X.

WE SPEAK A WHALER-THE PESTILENCE. This, then, as I reasoned it out to myself, was York's idea, and no doubt it was in his mind when he came aboard at the Cape. His talk of the islands and the goldfields had excited and corrupted the crew and probably the guards. The convicts were to be released, the ship seized, and those in possession would then go their own way. York would be the nominal captain, but I could not doubt that Ben Johnson would be the actual ruler and leader. I did not believe the crew as a whole would go into such a thing if they believed that murder was to be done. They would stipulate that officers and passengers were to be marooned on some island and given a chance for life. They had been well used, well fed and had no grudges to satisfy. They had been led from the path of duty by the smooth talk of the villain York, but they could not wish ns harm.

I could not be sure that all the crew had entered into the plot. There were at least three middle aged, steady going men who had probably not been approached, but this would not help us out much. When the moment of revolt came, they would be looked out for, and when they found the bark in possession of the mutineers they would be compelled to strike hands with them. With the convicts numbering more than three to one, and with at least a score of sailors among them, and perhaps at least one navigator, it was easy enough to arrive at the result. They might not maroon the crew or send them adrift, but the chances were even up that they would, retaining only the services of

To fully realize the state of affairs you must understand a sailor's nature. doubt if abuse or starvation could have driven our crew to mutiny. The average sailor has a lively imagination. He is a good listener. A smooth tongued liar can convince him against his will. He is always sighing for a lazy life, and though he is wasteful of his money the idea of having plenty of it will lead him into almost anything. The pictures York had drawn of the goldfields and the green islands of the Indian ocean had corrupted them and blinded them

to consequences. You will ask why I did not at once let them know I was in possession of their secret and take prompt measures to check the contemplated revolt. I answer that because such a step on my part would have brought things to a head at once and insured our destruction. And, too, I was not sure they were fully committed to the plot, and should we chance to fall in with another man-of-war or overhaul a merchantman and keep her company it would alter their plans materially. I went to Captain Clark with my information, of course. He was just able to move about reflected for awhile after hearing my

story, and then said:
"Well, Raiph, I do not see that we can do more than is being done. If the crew is with the convicts, they can take the bark at any hour it pleases them, and our only hope is that they may delay until we sight a man-of-war. In that case we could straighten out affairs very quickly. As we have been far off our course, and as York has had no means of ascertaining our position for many days past, there will be no move for a day or two yet. He won't want to take charge of a ship without knowing what course to sail her."

This was good philosophy, and I took care to give no one the latitude and longitude as worked out from the noon observations on the next two days. York, as I learned from Haskell, made repeat ed efforts to secure the results of my calculations and was seemingly much put out over his failures. I changed the course of the ship twice in the two days in order to further mystify him.

In the morning watch of the third day after my conversation with Hawley that at least three different men in Ben in the lazarette we sighted a ship bearing up to us from the south, and presently made out that she was an American whaler. As she drew near she flew a signal that she wished to speak us, and an hour later her captain was pulled to the Hindu's side in his own boat. I met him at the rail and conducted him to the cabin for an interview with It might be smallpox or might be mea-Captain Clark. He introduced himself sles or the men might be shamming. The as Captain Lewis Holt of the New Bed- three men had eaten heartily at breakford whaler Good Luck, which had fast, proving they had no fever or pre-His errand aboard of us was to replenhis first visit to a convict ship he was than I had ever known him to use beerations of a gang taking their morning alarmed, as you may imagine, but I wash up, and almost by accident heard took notice that not a single man among some one speak the name of York. He instantly turned to me and asked:

"Have you got a mate aboard by that "No, I picked up a man by that name at Cape Town, who claimed to have been third mate of a whaler, but he is

acting as a guard over the convicts." "Light hair, blue eyes, large nose, two front teeth gone, great talker?" That fits him."

"It's the same durned skunk I left there six weeks ago," he hotly ex-claimed, "and I've been mad ever since that I didn't break his neck before dumping him ashore. If that chap is with you, look out."

"What's wrong with him?" "Everything. He's not only the greatest liar on land or sea, but has a heart as black as a pirate's. Why, the infernal soundrel had talked half my ly smallpox?" We were not wi heart as black as a pirate's. Why, the infernal soundrel had talked half my erew into a state of mutiny before I got on to his little game. A guard, is he? Well, he isn't any better than those that put us in. While yet the alarm

he looks after, and it's my opinion you can't watch him too closely.

Here was confirmation of my darkest suspicions, and it will be a lifelong regret that I did not take advantage of the opening presented. Captain Holt could have been hired to take York away by force, and with him out of the ship the convicts would have probably given up their plan. I think it would have been an easy matter to exchange six or eight men with him for a cash consideration, and that would have removed all anxiety and insured a safe

You ask why I didn't take these steps. First, because Captain Clark opposed them, and, secondly, because the result would have been an official investigation. Had we encountered an English man-of-war the case would have been far different. I had suspicions, but no positive proofs. To have forced York or any of the sailors to exchange into the whaler would have been an arbitrary act which would have cost us dear without we could prove justification. Again, Mary Williams and Haskell were the only two people aft who had a suspicion of anything wrong, and all others, including the doctor, would have protested and could have been used as witnesses against us.

I was, however, on the point of asking the American to keep us in sight for a couple of days, on pretense that we were making some alterations in the quarters of the convicts, when he stated that he should run to the east for a new cruising ground. It turned out even better than that. At noon, when he was about three miles in our wake, the wind fell and a dead calm came on which lasted that afternoon and night. all the next day and up to midnight of the second night. During this calm, with the whaler in plain view, I noticed that almost every man of our crew carried an anxious, excited look, but they were unusually humble in their demeanor.

York was asleep when the whaler's captain visited us, but I took care to drop Holt's name so that it would be carried forward to him. He also doubtless identified the whaler as soon as he set eyes on her, and it was plain enough that he was greatly disturbed. After a bit he made opportunity to speak with me, and when I did not tell him that his name had been mentioned he was evidently much relieved.

On the second day of the calm I had another talk with Mary Williams. She had been closely watching the two young women, but they evidently suspected the espionage and had been on their guard. She had caught on to but one suspicious circumstance. That very morning, while my mate had the deck, she had seen Miss Foster pass some thing to York in a sly manner as she promenaded the deck. As the young woman had just come cat of the dispensary it was natural to believe that the object was something carried from that room. The idea of poison flashed through my mind, but was discarded when I remembered hearing the doctor say he had nothing of the sort among his stores. Whatever it was, York had had ample time to secrete it, and it was useless for me to cudgel my brains.

At about midnight of the second night the calm was broken, though the and in a nervous state, and I dared not breeze was very light. When morning tell him as much as I have told you. He came, we saw that the whaler had altered her plans and was bearing up

"It's the same durned skunk I left there six weeks ago."

the north, and it was with a heavy heart I bid her goodby. Things ran smoothly up to noon, and then it was Haskell who came aft and reported to the doctor Johnson's cage had developed cases of the smallpox. Dr. Haxton at once went down to investigate, and a quarter of an hour later he reported that the pestilence was present in a virulent form.

In such an emergency as this it would have been everything to us to feel that we had a competent physician aboard. then been cruising for a year and a half. | monitory symptoms, and the idea of smallpox was absurd. Dr. Haxton not ish his medicine chest, and as this was only insisted, but with more fervor naturally curious. He witnessed the op- fore. The passengers were terribly the guards and only two among the crew appeared to be at all anxious. This fact alone would have satisfied me that it was an understood thing. I said all the passengers were alarmed. I should have made an exception as far as the two young women were concerned. Their pretense of alarm was so transparent that I was not the only one to see

through it. We had provided no hospital aboard the bark because the government did not contract for anything of the sort. Epidemics were not counted on or pro-vided against. If one broke out, then let the doctor do the best he could. If the convicts died, well and good. If they got well, they must be turned over to the officials at Botany Bay. Odds

Highest of all in Leavening Power .-- Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

## Baking

ABSOLUTELY PURE

was upon us Baskell announced that he had something to communicate. \* Convicts, guards and sailors knew that he was faithful to the ship and were on their guard that he should neither see nor hear anything. He had made some few discoveries, however, and was satisfied in his own mind that a trick was being played on the doctor, and that the two young women were cognizant of it. In doing his turn below he had got a strong odor of what he thought was croton oil, and he suggested that the doctor be questioned about it.

Dr. Haxton was immediately sent for and asked if any of the oil mentioned was included in his medical outfit. He asswered promptly in the affirmative and went away to fetch the bottle. It was missing. If croton oil be rubbed upon the face, it will produce a tlotch similar to that which appears in the first stages of smallpox. He was sure that he had an eight onnce bottle of the stuff, and just as sure that other hands than his had removed it from the dispensary. That settled it with the rest of us, but not with the doctor. He became indignant that we should question the correctness of his diagnosis, and added that if the patients were not isolated he should not hold himself responsible for results.

I have said very little concerning our passengers, male or female, because they were passengers only and had no part or portion in our discussions and worriments. Up to the hour they got word of the sickness below they were totally unsuspicious that danger menaced. When the doctor announced smallpox, something had to be done to allay the panic. The passengers were assembled in the great cabin, and Captain Clark plainly told them in the presence of the doctor that he was not satisfied that a pestilence had appeared. When sure of it, he would take every precaution to prevent its spread, and he advised them to resume the even tenor of their ways until the question was settled. He called their attention particularly to the fact that we had a clean bill of health at the Cape, and that no disease of the sort existed there. As every convict had been vaccinated before leaving England, it was simply impossible for a virulent outbreak to occur.

Dr. Haxton construed the captain's language as an insult and hotly reiterated his professional opinion, and there we were, worse off perhaps than as if a pirate ship with the black flag flying and her cutthroat crew at quarters was bearing down on us with the intention to rob, ravish and scuttle.

> CHAPTER XI. THE MUTINY.

The captain's decision was carried forward to convicts and crew, and I and Mary to remain below, and the looked for an outbreak within an hour. other women somehow got warning and Perhaps the reason it did not take place was because they feared the whaler might show up again. I felt that it would not long be delayed, however, and Captain Clark, Haskell, Williams and Roberts agreed with me. Saunders, Smith and the two, single women stuck to the doctor, and thus we were divided into two factions.

The ship was never more quiet than during the remainder of that day and all through the night. The sailors were prompt to respond to every call, but moved quietly and spoke in low tones. This might have been attributed to their fears of the pestilence, but I realized that there was something back of that. I had the watch on deck from 8 to 12, and I noticed many little things which satisfied me that if the whaler nor other sail was in sight when morning broke the climax would come.

When I was relieved by the second mate at midnight, I had a bit of a talk with him. His name, as I don't remember to have told you before, was Cortrite. He was a middle aged man, well up in his duties, and I have said nothing of him simply because I had not taken him into my confidence. I don't mean that I mistrusted him, but that I thought it wise to confine my suspicions to as few persons as possible as long as they were only suspicions. The meeting in the cabin had of course brought him a knowledge of the situation, and there was no doubt that he could be thoroughly depended on. The bo'sun might or might not be with us. When I asked Cortrite his opinion of things, he replied:

"Mr. Tompkins, if I hadn't known that you were watching the run of things I should have posted you a bit. It's my opinion that the two women have been won over and that they have also made a tool of the doctor. If there's nothing in sight when the sun comes up, then God help us!"

"You think there'll be an outbreak a mutiny?"

"I'm as sure of it as that I stand here. I understand that we have arms aboard. If I might be bold enough, I'd advise you to make ready for what is When I went into the cabin, I found

Captain Clerk up and dressed and wait-ing for me. I told him what Mr. Cort-rite had said, and he replied: 'We can't begin too soon. quietly fasten on the iron shutters while

overhaul the firearms. It was a quiet night, with only enough wind to give the craft steerage way, and fortunately for us the dolt of man Hawley was at the wheel from midnight to 2 o'clock. The provisions for convicts and sailors were stowed forward of the cages, as was also a num-ber of the water casks. Those for cabin use were stowed in the lazarette, and

there were other water casks ballasted between the bulkheads of the passengers' cabins and the one hiding the after iron cage from view. You will remember that this bulkhead or partition was pierced for musketry. We could come at water and pro-

visions without leaving the cabin or exposing ourselves, and when we had the shutters up and the firearms ready for service Captain Clark looked about and said:

"Ralph, we cannot only make a good fight for it if attacked, but I think the advantage will be on our side. Our greatest care now will be to guard against any sudden rush aft.

Neither of us turned in that night. and both of us were on deck at daylight. At sunrise a man was sent aloft with a glass, but he swept the sea in vain for sight of sail. The fellow could not hide the exultant look in his eyes as he came down and reported, and we felt that the hour of peril was close at hand. The demeaner of the men as they washed down the decks was defiant, and had the convict gangs come up as usual the outbreak would have occurred with the advent of the first. The captain ordered that they remain below until after the doctor's morning inspection. In view of the supposed pestilence this order did not seem to excite any great surprise.

When the passengers gathered for breakfast, all were surprised to observe that the cabin had been put in a state of defense. I may add that Dr. Haxton and those who sided with him were also cynical and inclined to joke about it. As the iron shutters were fitted inside, no one forward could know about them. We didn't want them to know, and I kept watch of the two single women as they went on deck after breakfast. I



We saw Roberts knocked down. privately told Mr. and Mrs. Williams gave up their usual merning promenade,

though the weather was beautifully fine. As Dr. Haxton went forward to pay his morning call Roberts accompanied him. There were three children on the poopdeck, and I sent them below just as Haskell came aft, bringing his musket with him and working away at the lock as if it was in need of repairs. He gave me a look which signified that the time had come. Forward, there were the sailors of the morning watch, the guard relief, the doctor and Roberts. Aft, we had the captain, second mate, Haskell, all other passengers and myself.

As Dr. Haxton descended to the cages Captain Clark ordered the two singlewomen below, speaking so gruffly that they obeyed at once. Then he turned to Saunders and Smith, who were smoking and lounging, and said:

"Gentlemen, please step below for a minute, and don't stop to ask questions. Go now-at once!"

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Herron Will Case.

Indianapolis, Dec. 5.—The supreme-court in the case of William A. Harrison, for the heirs, against Ambroso-P. Stanton, executor of the will of John Herron, affirmed the action of the lower court in dismissing the suit brought to contest Herron's will. The will gave the bulk of an estate, valued at \$200,-600, to the Art association of this city. with small bequests to charities and to intimate friends. The contest alleged unsound mind of Mr. Herron. The Art association will receive near-

Struck by an Electric Car.

Denver, Dec. 5 .- At 6:30 Thursday evening a Broadway electric car struck carriage containing Mrs. John C. Montgomery, wife of a prominent Denver capitalist, and two other ladies, wrecking it and injuring Mrs. Montgomery so badly that she will proba-

Whirled Around a Shaft.

Jacksonville, Ills., Dec. 5.—Charles Brown, employed in the Waverly mill, reached over some machinery to get a sack when his coat became caught in the cogs and he was whirled about for some time before the mill could be stopped. He died in great agony soon after.

Borrowing In India.

India is a nation of pawnshops, according to General Booth. The people think the cleverest man is he who devises the largest number of ways by which to borrow money. They put in pledge their lands, oxen, jewelry, themselves, their children and their grandchildren, and cases have even been known where a father, to obtain money to defray the expenses of his daughter's wedding, has pledged as collateral the first child to be born of the union.